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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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Authorized By: H. D. Brewster

August 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO MR. JOHN Y. MILLAR

1. The following is the substance of a message from Admiral Burke to Secretary Gates, dated 12 December 1959:

"In accordance with your wish to know Mr. Strauss' current views on European disengagement, the Norstad Plan, etc., I brought up the general subject and received some clear, straightforward answers. He stated quite forcibly that West Germany would never agree to a disengagement plan involving withdrawal of German and Bloc forces or any disarmament in any zone less than all of Russia since the Germans do not trust the Soviets sufficiently. He then went on to explain that West Germany would be in favor of a zone of inspection without disarmament in the zone as long as the area involved was divided equitably on both sides of the Iron Curtain. He said it would be a very good idea if such a zone could be established so that it would eliminate the threat of a surprise ground attack on Germany and considerably reduce the threat of air attack--and the bigger the zone the better. In such a zone each side would go about their business doing whatever they wanted but both would tell each other what they were doing. This would not mean withdrawal of military forces in the inspection zone.

"We did not talk about the Norstad Plan *per se*, but you will note from the above that Mr. Strauss essentially is in agreement with the fundamental concept of the Norstad Plan, i. e. a zone of inspection which reduces the threat of surprise attack and does not require disengagement. While he clearly stated that the bigger the zone established the better, he would favor any size zone so long as there was equal division between East and West of the geographical area that would be selected. I think he meant the zone should include areas in addition to Germany itself. It follows that this represents a change in the previously stated view that any zone of inspection should include part of Russia itself."

Very respectfully
R. D. Tracy, Jr.

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A. S. REED, JR.
Deputy Assistant U.S.
Director, Defense Military Policy Division

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